

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1           1. (original) A nonwoven fabric made of filaments,  
2     having a ratio of the strength in the machine direction to  
3     the strength in the cross direction of less than 1.5,  
4     preferably less than 1.3 and better still less than 1.1,  
5     characterized by a density of less than 0.10 g/cm<sup>3</sup>,  
6     preferably between 0.09 and 0.03 g/cm<sup>3</sup> and better still  
7     between 0.07 and 0.03 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

1           2. (original) The nonwoven as claimed in claim 1, the  
2     filaments of which have a titer of between 0.9 and 10 dtex.

1           3. (currently amended) The nonwoven as claimed in  
2     claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that it has a tensile  
3     strength index in the machine direction of at least 1.5 and  
4     in the cross direction of at least 1.3 newtons per 50 mm per  
5     gram of nonwoven per m<sup>2</sup> and it has a weight of between 12  
6     and 150 g/m<sup>2</sup>, preferably between 12 and 50 g/m<sup>2</sup> and better  
7     still between 12 and 30 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

1           4. (currently amended) A method of producing a  
2 nonwoven, in which filaments coming from a spunbond unit  
3 with a die are deposited as a web having a longitudinal  
4 direction onto a conveyor, the web is compressed,  
5 perpendicular to the plane of the web, into a compressed web  
6 and then the compressed web is subjected to a consolidation  
7 operation by blasting it with water jets having a diameter  
8 of 50 to 250 microns at a pressure of 50 to 500 bar,  
9 characterized in that:

10           [-] the web is deposited onto the conveyor using at  
11 least one spunbond unit the die of which is inclined  
12 relative to the longitudinal direction, and preferably at  
13 least two spunbond units the two dies of which are inclined,  
14 preferably in opposite directions, relative to the  
15 longitudinal direction, at an angle of 10 to 60°, preferably  
16 20 to 50°;

17           [-] the water jets are blasted, either with  
18 interposition of the web, onto a metal fabric, the threads  
19 of which have a diameter of between 0.10 mm and 0.35 mm and  
20 preferably between 0.18 mm and 0.30 mm, and which has at  
21 most 40 and preferably 15 to 30 warp threads per cm and at  
22 most 40 and preferably 15 to 30 weft threads per cm, or,  
23 with interposition of the web, onto a microperforated  
24 sleeve, the dimensions of the perforations of which are  
25 between 50 and 600 microns and preferably between 150 and

26 500 microns, and which has a number of perforations of  
27 between 50 and 200 per cm<sup>2</sup>.

1 5. (original) The method as claimed in claim 4,  
2 characterized in that the metal fabric has a thickness of  
3 between 0.40 and 0.75 mm.

1 6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim  
2 4 ~~or 5~~, characterized in that the metal fabric has a plain,  
3 twill or satin weave.

1 7. (currently amended) A nonwoven production  
2 installation, characterized in that it comprises a spunbond  
3 unit ~~(1)~~ whose die ~~(3)~~ is inclined at an angle of 10 to 60',  
4 and preferably 20 to 50', relative to the direction of  
5 movement of a conveyor ~~(5)~~, and preferably two spunbond  
6 units whose dies are inclined, preferably in opposite  
7 directions, onto which conveyor the spunbond unit(s)  
8 deposits (deposit) filaments as a web, a compression station  
9 for compressing the web thus formed perpendicular to its  
10 plane into a compressed web, optionally a station ~~(10)~~ for  
11 calendering the compressed web, and then a consolidation  
12 station ~~(12 to 14)~~ for blasting pressurized water jets onto  
13 the compressed and optionally calendered web using a  
14 water-jet blasting machine which includes a metal fabric,

15 the threads of which have a diameter of between 0.10 mm and  
16 0.35 mm, there being at most 40 threads per cm and  
17 preferably 15 to 30 threads per cm both in the warp  
18 direction and in the weft direction, or using a water-jet  
19 blasting machine with a sleeve having 50 to 600 micron  
20 perforations, there being 20 to 200 perforations per cm<sup>2</sup>.

1 8. (currently amended) A filter, characterized in that  
2 it comprises a nonwoven as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~  
3 ~~3~~ claim 1.

1 9. (currently amended) A hygiene product,  
2 characterized in that it comprises a nonwoven as claimed in  
3 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, with a weight of between  
4 12 and 50 g/cm<sup>2</sup>.